Summer ends with a cool, wet August

2 September 2015 - Latest statistics from the Met Office confirm this summer has been cooler and wetter than average

Despite a dry and sunny June and a brief 'heat-wave' at the start of July, summer overall has been cooler than average and cooler than either summer 2013 or 2014. It has also been wetter than average, despite near average sunshine.

Using provisional figures* for the meteorological summer from 1 June to 31 August, Met Office statistics show the UK mean temperature for this summer was 13.9 °C. This is 0.4 °C below the 1981 - 2010 long term average.

Rainfall overall is slightly higher than average, with the UK having seen 272 mm of rain - which is 13 % above the long-term average. However, across southern and eastern England this rain has often come from short, heavy downpours and these have been interspersed with some fine, dry days.

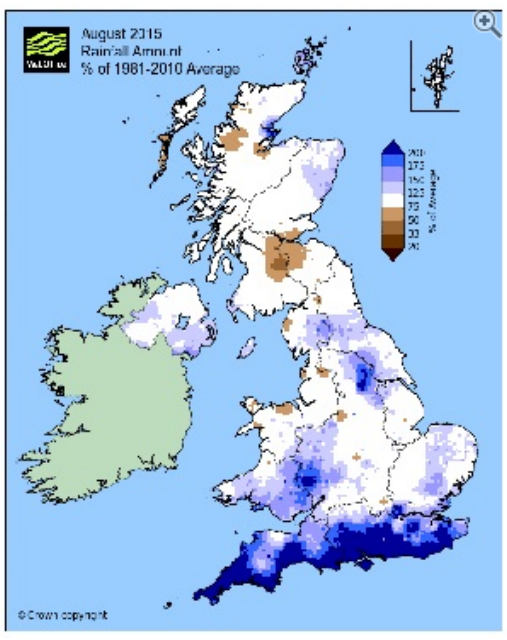
Our Chief Scientist Professor Dame Julia Slingo OBE FRS reflects on this summer's weather and what has influenced it.

Provisional summer 2015 statistics*

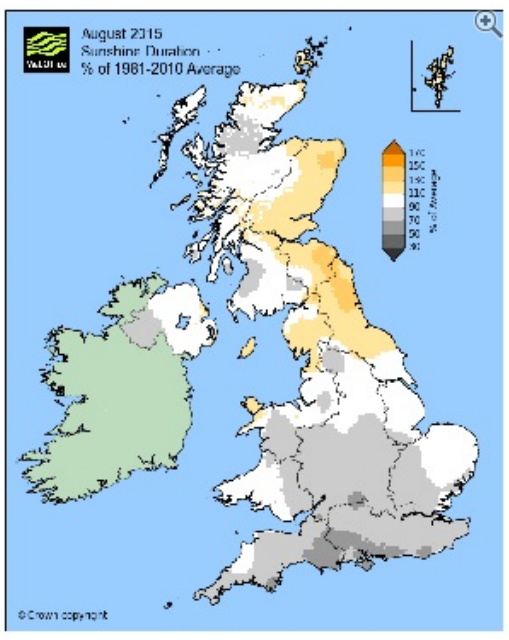
	mean temperature (°C)		sunshine (hours)		rainfall (mm)	
	Actual	Difference from 81-10 average	Actual	% of 81-10 average	Actual	% of 81-10 average
UK	13.9	-0.4	515	102	272	113
England	15.2	-0.3	583	104	213.7	110
Wales	13.9	-0.5	553	106	305.6	107
Scotland	11.9	-0.6	407	96	358.7	118
N Ireland	13.1	-0.8	429	101	277.5	109

August Overview

The weather during August was mostly unsettled and fairly cool, with the UK often under the influence of areas of low pressure. Temperatures frequently struggled to reach average, although there were some warmer days, particularly across eastern England, with temperatures up to around 25 °C. Several stations in the London area reached 30 °C on the 22nd.



Map showing the rainfall difference from average for August 2015



Map showing the sunshine percentage of average for August 2015

The UK mean temperature is 14.7 °C which is 0.2 °C below the long-term average, with the coolest conditions relative to average in south-west England.

In terms of rainfall across the UK, August has been slightly wetter than average. Heavy and thundery downpours in southern parts resulted in some areas recording notably high totals, with much of Cornwall and the south coast seeing two to three times the average rainfall for the month. Bournemouth (Hurn) Airport (Dorset), Odiham (Hampshire) and Guernsey Airport each recorded their wettest August in over 50 years of records.

August sunshine totals have been near average across many areas, but it has been a dull month for much of southern England.

Provisional August 2015 statistics*

	Mean Temp (°C)		Sunshine (hours)		Rainfall (mm)	
	Actual	Difference from 81-10 average	Actual	% of 81-10 average	Actual	% of 81-10 average
UK	14.7	-0.2	154	95	107.4	120
England	15.9	-0.2	163	89	97	140
Wales	14.4	-0.6	155	92	136.5	127
Scotland	12.9	-0.1	144	107	115.1	99
N Ireland	13.6	-0.7	132	97	117.2	120

*Data from the Met Office's UK digitised records dating back to 1910.

A full summary of August and the summer will be available shortly on our climate pages.

Last updated: 2 September 2015